

UNCLE SAM AS A CARIBBEAN GUARD

International Troubles of Venezuela, Hayti and San Domingo That Call for the Presence of a Powerful American Fleet.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Washington, Feb. 11.—A few days ago the most powerful fleet ever assembled under our flag left Hampton Roads and sailed through the Virginia Capes to the West Indies.

The ostensible purpose of this naval display is that the commanding officers may have an opportunity, too rarely accorded, of maneuvering their vessels in squadron formation.

Yet in Washington no attempt is made to conceal the fact that the sailing orders of this mighty armada will be responsive to the development of the political situation in the Caribbean within the next few days.

To Venezuela and to Hayti our accredited agents have delivered ultimatums which, unless they are honored, will lead to naval demonstrations that have been found so effective in crushing the lawless propensities of some of the West Indian rulers.

Nailed to the masthead of every vessel in this mighty flotilla is the Monroe Doctrine of our fathers and the plain-spoken declaration of it which has received the official sanction of the administration and the approval of the people as expressed by their ballots.

CONDITIONS IN THE CARIBBEAN. In Venezuela the present conditions are more deplorable than in any of the other states bordering on the Caribbean. Her pestiferous prisons are filled, her fields are untilled, her markets closed and in the potential land of plenty starvation stalks abroad. The Carriacou region has been from bad to worse and as we are in a large measure responsible for its continued existence our responsibility here is heavy and most direct.

It is unfortunately quite clear that the law-abiding and law-loving people of Venezuela are unable to shake off by their unaided efforts the despotic rule of Castro and his mercenary army, composed almost exclusively of the savages who followed him down from the Andes on that remarkable robber forage which landed him in the presidential palace at Caracas.

The situation can only be made clear by admitting frankly that the civilized people of the country are very inferior to the law-abiding and law-loving people of the United States. The dictator himself, though brutal and for his strategic position, has considerable political ability.

ATTITUDE OF THE UNITED STATES. Our responsibility for the Venezuelan situation comes in not merely under the general terms of the Monroe Doctrine, but under the obligation which we assumed toward the Powers of the civilized world during the Venezuelan crisis and blockade in the winter of 1902-3.

At this critical juncture in the affairs of South America it is evident that our State Department regarded the benevolent attitude of Germany and of England toward the Matos revolution with suspicion.

The State Department, it would appear, did not believe that these Powers were simply inspired by a desire to see civilization triumph and barbarism banished to the back country of the Andes, and these suspicions were certainly not groundless. Matos had on several occasions shown himself unfriendly to our interests, and it was surmised that in return for the many favors which these Powers showered upon him he had agreed to cede to Germany the island of Margarita, important as a coaling station and for its strategic position, and Potos and several other little islands at the mouth of the Orinoco were, we were given to England to strengthen her Trinidad position and give her control of this great waterway, which leads into the very heart of South America.

INJURED CAUSE OF REVOLUTION. These accusations, whether well founded or not, injured materially the cause of the revolution in Venezuela and induced the Washington Government to give the despotic Castro government support.

Through our intervention and sponsorship Castro, the outlaw, was admitted to the Hague Tribunal as a client, set as a criminal in the box, and his interests were taken care of by two United States officials. As a result of the hearing before the international tribunal every contention of the Castro element was disproved, damages for wrongs and exactions and a civilized method of payment was devised. In case Castro should default on the award, the United States Government would look to the United States Government to perform the Sheriff's duties, but, of course, this was a joke which even the most astute tribunal could not deny itself now and again.

INDICATOR CASTRO'S ATTITUDE. The damages awarded at The Hague were triple the sum for which Castro could have made a settlement at any time before the hearing. The dictator was furious, and he has never hesitated to say that the United States Government sold him out and that his advisers profited by his discomfiture.

From that day to this he has not left a stone unturned to defeat the cause of the court which decreed that a certain percentage of the maritime customs receipts should be set aside to pay the awards made to the foreign governments and to foreign citizens. In this he has been successful, and by methods which are not without a certain shrewdness he has brought it about that the customs-house, under pretense as it were, are receiving no money.

In the meantime the foreign creditors are becoming impatient and foreign governments are urging upon the State Department the advisability of radical action, and even interference in force. The Hague Tribunal foreman that if, as many suspected, Castro should act in bad faith, it was necessary to provide another more reliable method of collection than through the Venezuelan customs officials, and in all the protocols signed by the Powers there is a provision that in case the satisfactory arrangement shall not prove satisfactory the Venezuelan customs-house are to be taken over and administered by Belgian officials until the same awarded by the court have been paid.

The Dominican Republic has a very checked part, and even today, while progress has been made, the future is not bright with the promise of peaceful development and tranquility. Occupies the eastern end of the island of Hispaniola, which Columbus discovered and more highly prized in his reports than any of the other new possessions which constituted the New World he gave to Castile and Leon.

ORIGIN OF THE DEADLY YELLOW PERIL.

Plague's Discovery Dates Back to Time of Columbus, When Disease Broke Out Among Sailors.

Columbia, Tex., Feb. 11.—The discovery of yellow fever, according to a student of the disease in this city, dates back to the first years of the discovery of America, when the disease broke out among the sailors of Columbus in San Domingo. But the first authentic account is of an epidemic which occurred in the Barbados in 1647. Since then innumerable epidemics have ravaged the cities of North and South America, Central America, and even Europe.

During the Napoleonic wars the most extensive epidemics occurred. In 1804 Cadix was visited by this scourge, which attacked 60,000 out of 70,000, 1,000 dying in a few months. One of the worst epidemics which has ever ravaged the United States occurred in 1853 and extended along the Atlantic Coast through all the Southern States and as far north as Rhode Island. One hundred and twenty-five thousand persons were stricken, more than 3,000 dying of the disease.

Regularity of the germ of yellow fever is that it may be carried long distances and preserve its vitality for months. During the epidemic of 1853 a native being was an instance of this. A native being was an instance of this. A native being was an instance of this.

MAYSTERN'S CYCLONIC CLEAN'S SWEEP SALE.

This extraordinary sale enters upon its third week to-morrow with values that will prove a positive revelation to every man and woman in St. Louis—values that are surprising even to us, accustomed though we are to remarkable bargain-giving!! The necessity is urgent—this entire stock must be reduced to the lowest level—and all odd lots and discontinued patterns must be swept out completely!! We're clearing the way—preparing for great events to come—getting the stock in shape for important announcements soon to be made!! Anticipate your Spring wants!! CASH OR CREDIT. Take advantage of these slashing reductions!!

**FINAL SWEEP IN
SIDEBOARDS**

A wide assortment for your selection—and at much less than the usual prices—as this list shows.

24 Sideboards—were \$12.00—in this final clearance at.....	\$7.98
20 Sideboards—were \$18.00—in this final clearance at.....	\$11.75
15 Sideboards—were \$30.00—in this final clearance at.....	\$25.00
9 Sideboards—were \$45.00—in this final clearance at.....	\$32.50

**FINAL SWEEP IN
DRESSERS**

We call special attention to these final reductions in Dressers, for in every instance the prices are actually lower than the cost to manufacture. The goods must go. Our necessity is your opportunity.

30 Odd Dressers—were \$12.00—in this final clearance at.....	\$7.75
18 Odd Dressers—were \$16.00—in this final clearance at.....	\$11.50
9 Odd Dressers—were \$20.00—in this final clearance at.....	\$16.50
6 Odd Dressers—were \$35.00—in this final clearance at.....	\$21.50

**FINAL SWEEP IN
IRON BEDS**

Something over 300 Iron Beds have been still further reduced to hurry them out. They're styles that we will not carry this coming season—and we need the room they take up.

\$3.00 Iron Beds for.....	\$1.59
\$7.00 Iron Beds for.....	\$4.98
\$12.00 Iron Beds for.....	\$7.98
\$16.00 Iron Beds for.....	\$9.75

**FINAL SWEEP IN
FOLDING BEDS**

Remarkable—incredible—as these reductions may seem, you can depend upon the truthfulness and accuracy of our every statement. Maystern's printed promises are always faithfully fulfilled.

30 Mantel Beds—were \$12.50—in this final clearance at.....	\$9.50
20 Mantel Beds—were \$16.00—in this final clearance at.....	\$12.50
8 Mantel Beds—were \$23.00—in this final clearance at.....	\$17.98

**IF YOU NEED AN
EXTENSION TABLE**

This sale is your opportunity!! Thirty-five Extension Tables—one of a kind—all that's left of our best-selling line—are again reduced. The prices speak for themselves.

11 Extension Tables—were \$12.00—in this final clearance at.....	\$4.98
12 Extension Tables—were \$10.00—in this final clearance at.....	\$7.50
12 Extension Tables—were \$15.00—in this final clearance at.....	\$12.50

CASH OR CREDIT

S. E. Cor. Eleventh and Olive Sts.

**PAY US \$2.00 CASH FOR THIS
MAGNIFICENT BED DAVENPORT**

JUST LIKE CUT

NO PICTURE CAN DO JUSTICE TO THE BEAUTY AND UTILITY OF THIS BED DAVENPORT. IT'S THE ONLY ONE ON THE MARKET THAT HAS A LARGE COMPARTMENT UNDERNEATH IN WHICH TO STORE THE BED CLOTHES DURING THE DAY—AND ALSO HAS A FULL DOUBLE HEAD AND FOOT BOARD WHEN OPENED. MADE IN THE FINEST MANNER OF RICH GOLDEN OAK—ELEGANTLY UPHOLSTERED ON A BED OF TEMPERED STEEL SPRINGS! CAN BE INSTANTLY ADJUSTED TO FORM A LARGE AND COMFORTABLE BED AT NIGHT. WORTH FULLY \$10.00. SPECIAL AT MAY-STERNS ON THE ABOVE EASY TERMS FOR...

WORTH FULLY \$10.00. SPECIAL AT MAY-STERNS ON THE ABOVE EASY TERMS FOR...

\$27.50

CARPETS AND ROOM RUGS

Sweeping reductions are the order of the day!! Every yard of Carpet—every Hearth Rug—every Room Rug—every yard of Matting—every yard of Oilcloth and Linoleum—all go to you at lower prices than you've ever known!! Here's a hint of the unusual values that await you here this week.

200 Tapestry Brussels Room Rugs, size 9 feet by 12 feet, with borders woven on wool face, rich colors; regular price \$18.00.....	\$11.75
100 Fine Velvet Room Rugs, size 9 feet by 12 feet, elegant patterns, the \$23.00 kind.....	\$17.50
600 Yards Elegant Velvet Carpet, grades that usually sell at \$1.25 and \$1.35—a few patterns to be closed out at.....	85c
250 Yards Good Brussels Carpet, bright, new patterns and good-wearing quality, worth 65c at.....	45c
1,000 Yards Good Ingrain Carpet, the kind that sells regularly for 40c and 45c at.....	25c

**FINAL SWEEP IN
BOOKCASES**

Only the prices are reduced. The Maystern quality is always maintained—that solid, substantial, dependable quality that assures constant pleasure and highest satisfaction.

24 Bookcases—were \$24.00—in this final clearance for.....	\$8.98
18 Bookcases—were \$20.00—in this final clearance for.....	\$12.50
14 Bookcases—were \$25.00—in this final clearance for.....	\$16.00
8 Bookcases—were \$32.00—in this final clearance for.....	\$22.50

**FINAL SWEEP IN
WARDROBES**

All this season's Wardrobes in the house must be moved out at any loss! Prices have been cut and slashed to the very core! New goods are pouring in demanding every inch of room we can give them.

45 Wardrobes—were \$9.99—in this final clearance for.....	\$4.98
21 Wardrobes—were \$12.00—in this final clearance for.....	\$7.50
30 Wardrobes—were \$18.00—in this final clearance for.....	\$12.50
6 Wardrobes—were \$25.00—in this final clearance for.....	\$16.75

**FINAL SWEEP IN
PARLOR SUITS**

24 Three-Piece Parlor Suits that were \$18.00 are slashed to.....	\$10.75
21 Three-Piece Parlor Suits that were \$25.00 are slashed to.....	\$16.00
15 Five-Piece Parlor Suits that were \$35.00 now cut to.....	\$22.50
4 Five-Piece Parlor Suits that were \$40.00 now cut to.....	\$37.50

**FINAL SWEEP IN
MORRIS CHAIRS**

Here are 65 Morris Chairs—seven styles—that you can choose from this week at absurdly low prices! They're true, big, comfortable chairs—not a thing the matter with them except that they take up a lot of room that we need badly.

22 Morris Chairs—were \$16.00—in this final clearance at.....	\$4.50
24 Morris Chairs—were \$10.00—in this final clearance at.....	\$7.50
19 Morris Chairs—were \$12.00—in this final clearance at.....	\$10.00

WILLIAMS & CO.

S. E. Cor. Eleventh and Olive Sts.

WE GIVE EAGLE TRADING STAMPS

SPECIAL!

1,000 Fine Large Indian Heads—like cut in bright, life-like colorings—an ideal home decoration—sold by art stores at 15c—special..... **19c**

HOW THE DEADLY COBRAS ARE CHARMED BY MUSIC.

Capturing of These Reptiles in a Profession in India—One Man Plays While His Confederate Throws Dust at the Snake.

The death-dealing cobra is passionately fond of music, and it is through this means that its capture is often accomplished. The men in India who can effect the capture of these deadly reptiles must be possessed of remarkable skill or their lives are forfeit. When a cobra takes up its abode in the neighborhood of a dwelling-house it is customary to send for the professional snake charmer. One of them strikes up a tune near the place where the snake is supposed to be located. No matter what the creature may be doing, it is at once attracted by the sound of music. It emerges slowly from its hiding place and strikes an attitude in front of the performer. There it is kept engaged with the music while the other man creeps

THE INDIANA ALMOST READY.

Reconstructed Battleship a Fine Type of Modern Vessel.

RECONSTRUCTION SPECIAL. New York, Feb. 11.—The battleship Indiana, which has been undergoing repairs that amount practically to reconstruction at the New York Navy Yard for the past fourteen months, is ready for the finishing touches. Naval Constructor Baxter, in charge of the work, made the announcement, coupled with the statement that the Indiana's sister ships, the Oregon and the Massachusetts.

The work on the Indiana has cost the Government nearly \$200,000, and when again taken in place in the navy she will be a vastly superior craft to the one that was dismantled at the navy yard over a year ago. The turret will no longer be steam controlled, but will, like the turret of the newer battleships and armored cruisers, be driven by electricity. Another great improvement will be the substitution of modern American tubular boilers for the old type of Scotch boiler.

The Indiana's armament will remain the same, although her great guns will be

They act like Exercise.

Cascarets

-for the Bowels

ALL DRUGGISTS

Ten Cents